News Notes

from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

LEVEL ONE
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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYBODY - since most of us live by date books and schedules, what better way to start the New Year than by listing some of the dates of events the CHE folk are involved in one way and another.

Jan. 10	Annual Meeting, Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities, Denver, Colorado -- Speaker, Dr. Earl McGrath
Jan. 10-12	Annual Meeting, Association of American Colleges, Denver, Colorado
Jan. 13	Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Associated Section of Local Staff - CCL, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Jan. 20	Executive Committee, Board of the Christian Scholar, New York
Jan. 20-21	General Committee of the Faculty Christian Fellowship, New York
Jan. 25-27	Consultation on Educational Loans and Scholarships, Cincinnati
Jan. 29-31	Consultation on Evangelism in the University, NSCF-UCM, Stony Point
Feb. 9-12	Central Committee NSCF, St. Louis
Feb. 13-14	Executive Committee CHE, St. Louis
Feb. 16	Missouri Faculty Christian Fellowship Meeting, Central College, Fayette, Mo.
Feb. 13-17.	Annual Meeting Division of Christian Education, St. Louis
Feb. 19	Universal Day of Prayer for Students
Feb. 23-24	General Board, NCC, Syracuse
March 5-8	Annual Conference Association for Higher Education of the N.E.A., Chicago
March 17-18	Central States Faculty Conference, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana
March 20-21	CHE Staff Retreat, Stony Point
March 25 - April 1	Frontiers Seminar, Commission on World Mission, NSCF, New York
April 3-7	CEVSP Work Camp Leadership Training Conference, Richmond, Virginia
April 7-10	Conference of the British University Teacher's Committee, St. Anne's College, Oxford - "The Expanding University"
April 7 or 14	Eastern Pennsylvania Faculty Conference, Allentown, Pennsylvania
April 8-9	Tri-State Faculty Conference, Washington and Jefferson College, Pennsylvania
April 15	Central Pennsylvania Faculty Conference, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
April 16	NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY
May 1-4	Committee on United Projects, CCL, Nashville, Tennessee
May 5-6	Rocky Mountains Region Faculty Conference, University of Colorado, Denver
June 7-8	General Board, NCC, Chicago
June 13-19	Annual Meeting CHE, Conference Point, Lake Geneva
July 2	One-day Conference Church College Public Relations Officers, Denver, Colorado
August 21-25	Southern States Faculty Conference, Lake Junaluska
August 21-25	Southwestern Regional Faculty Christian Conference, Texas Christian University
Sept. 3-10	General Assembly, NSCF
Oct. 27 - Nov. 11	Pacific Northwest Faculty Conference, West Linn Inn, Portland
Nov. 6	Public Relations Committee, CHE
Nov. 13-17	Committee of National Staff for CCL, Committee on United Projects CCL, Tuxedo Park, New York

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

FOR THE ASKING

Bryant Drake, Division of Higher Education, 19 South LaSalle Stree, Chicago 3, Illinois, has on hand a number of copies of "A Selective Bibliography - Religion in Higher Education" by Parker Rossman. It draws on books recommended in preparation for the WSCF's Life and Mission of the Church conferences, upon "The Re-examination of Faith in the Scholarly Community," (a bibliography of the Division of Educational Institutions of the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church), and upon books recommended in course bibliographies at Yale Divinity School.

VISITING SCHOLARS

In addition to the list of "Visiting Scholars in the United States" published each year by the Committee of International Exchange of Persons, Dr. Elizabeth P. Lam has prepared a special list of these visiting scholars who are available for occasional lectures. It is well worth sending for, from Committee of International Exchange of Persons, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.

RELIGION IN STATE UNIVERSITIE

Those looking for more specific information on what is actually developing in the way of religion courses in publicly supported colleges and universities will find it in "The Teaching of Religion in State Universities - Descriptions of Programs in Twenty-five Institutions" by Milton D. McLean and Harry H. Kimber. $1. Available from the Office of Religious Affairs, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

PRAYERS

A useful and helpful little book of prayers for use on the campus has been compiled by our good friend Dr. H. D. Bollinger. "The Student at Prayer." 75¢ - The Upper Room, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5, Tennessee.

FILM

The Methodists have produced a 16 mm 30 minute film on Wesley Foundations entitled "The Church at the Campus." It may be purchased for $180 or rented for $8 from TRAFCO or Cokesbury Book Stores. Also available is a discussion guide to be used with it. Write to Department of College and University Religious Life, P.O. Box 871, Nashville, Tennessee.

Three Questions and an Invitation

Why Not Asia? Nine out of ten applicants for overseas participation in Ecumenical Voluntary Service Projects will ask for Europe! Why not Asia? Is the only reason finance? Can you help neutralize the difference here? A special floating seminar enroute offers exceptional orientation to one of the little understood truly different cultural areas.

Why Not Russia? As this reaches you, it will not be too late to ask your top students in international studies and your most mature student Christian leadership if they have considered spending the summer of 1961 in Russia as part of the students exchange program.

Why Not Your Campus? Ecumenical Voluntary Service projects are but one slender arm of the concern of the church for human needs, needs to be met from our Christian faith and concern. This is just a reminder that the more clearly this call is sounded "at home," the more clearly the needs not quite so close are understood!

So - Welcome! - to a concern that is ours, you the reader and mine. We welcome inquiry and applications for projects both at home and overseas - and offer such service as we may be able to give.

ECUMENICAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE, NSCF, Rm. 753, 475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, N.Y. 27, N.Y.

Good news! The "Manual for Local Cooperative Student Christian Work" last issued by the Strategy and Projects Committee in 1958 has been completely revised and brought up-to-date by the new committee of National Staff for Campus Christian Life.

REVISION OF THE MANUAL FOR UNITED CAMPUS PROJECTS

Taking into account the advent of the NSCF, the impact of Strasbourg and other world and national conferences, and the growth to date in understanding changes in both the nature of contemporary academic communities and the church's mission in them - the new manual offers help in initiating local projects and evaluating existing work.

Suggested principles, policies, and procedures should springboard interpretation, discussion and implementation of these convictions by councils of churches, local boards, campus ministers, and fellowships.

Specific resources include sample constitutions, budget forms, denominational policies, program elements and a directory as well as historical development and current convictions on the nature and mission of the church in the university.

Final editing is under way and orders and inquiries may be directed to the Commission office now.

Two dates in February are worth special mention:

DATES UNDERLINED

-- Race Relations Sunday, February 12, 1961. Copies of the Annual Message are available. Write J. Oscar Lee, Dept. of Race Relations, NCC, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York

-- Universal Day of Prayer for Students, February 19, 1961. Helpful materials including a suggested order of worship are available. Write NSCF 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York

A report growing out of discussions between union leaders and chaplains in a Manchester England organization for church factory contacts makes this interesting comparison between churches and labor unions. "Five points of similarity between churches and trade unions are listed. They are: The problems of adaptation to the modern world; large popular memberships, most of which are nominal; leaders out of touch with the rank and file; a tendency to splinter and also to amalgamation; and members who do not practice what they preach."

SOUNDS FAMILIAR

We quote without comment the following excerpt from an article entitled "A Functional Analysis of Motivation for General Education" in the Nov. 1 College and University Bulletin of the AHE.

OF MICE AND MEN

"Motivation for general education thus can be analyzed according to the stimuli and reinforcements provided by the instructor...The third variable, frequency of reinforcement, deserves some special consideration because of recent research on schedules of reinforcement. Regular (consistent) reinforcement has long been the best schedule to ensure repetitive behavior. In training a rat to turn left rather than right in a T-maze, in getting a pigeon to peck at an illuminated disc, or in getting students to study, the best way to ensure voluntary behavior is by reinforcing every time the desired response occurs. The rat and the pigeon get fed -- and students receive other rewards from their instructors."

EDUCATED BARBARIANS

"The convulsive situation in Europe at the present moment is due to the fact that the average Englishman, the average Frenchman, the average German are uncultured: they are ignorant of the essential system of ideas concerning the world and man, which belong to our time. This average person is the new barbarian, a laggard behind the contemporary civilization, archaic and primitive in contrast with his problems, which are grimly, relentlessly modern. This new barbarian is above all the professional man, more learned than ever before, but at the same time more uncultured - the engineer, the physician, the lawyer, the scientist." Note: Jose Ortega y Gasset, Mission of the University, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1946. pp. 44-45

EDUCATION?

"A graduate of our modern schools knows only by accident and by hearsay whatever wisdom mankind has come to in regard to the nature of men and their destiny."

- Walter Lippman - quoted by Thomas H. Henderson, Inaugural Address as Pres. of Virginia Union University

IS THE GOOD STUDENT THE PROMISING STUDENT?

One of the implications of a recent study on scholarships is a regard for creative ability along with scholastic aptitude in selection of recipients. The report is "The Concentration of Scholarship Funds and Its Implications for Education," by Dr. John L. Holland, Director of Research for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and Laura Kent, an assistant. It is being published in College and University, the journal of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

THE MYSTERY OF CREATIVITY

Approximately half of the undergraduate scholarship funds available from all sources, public and private, are concentrated in fifty institutions, the report notes. These institutions, it is pointed out, make up only a small percentage of the nation's undergraduate schools. By their "corner" on scholarship funds, these institutions "wield considerable power in recruiting intellectual talent." Their criteria for selecting students to receive scholarship aid are found to favor students who come from above-average-income families. They also favor those who have high scores on aptitude and achievement tests and good grades in high school, none of which are considered in this report to be reliable signs of potential creativity. Other recent studies are singled out to show that those who do well in high school and college are "not necessarily creative after they get out of college." What is needed, the authors say, is a better measure of independent achievement and creativity.

From News Notes from the President's Desk 10/20/60

CITED FOR FACULTY READING

We commend an enlightening and stimulating new book, "New Accents in Contemporary Theology" by Roger Hazelton (Harpers, 1960, 144 pp). Instead of outlining various theological approaches, Hazelton seeks to deal with the meaning of theology itself as it carries on its task and encounters the world. He identifies a major direction of contemporary theology by describing it as conversation with the arts, the sciences and philosophy. He then deals with it as interpretation, consensus and invitation.

The approach is quite possibly from a personal perspective but interpretations are able and fair. The judgments are at times quite indirect and thus disarming. One needs to keep his critical wits about him and ask, "Is that as obvious as he says?" Written in clear lucid style it is an excellent introduction for those who want a first acquaintance with issues in contemporary Christian thinking.

Many, many thanks to the individuals and agencies which responded to the invitation to support the Commission on Higher Education and/or its Units. We of the C. H. E. staff love our work, it is interesting, creative and at times exciting. It becomes frustrating only when the time required to raise funds to do the work slows down the work itself.

Hubert C. Noble
General Director